

Message Text

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66

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08

TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 FEA-02 OMB-01

DRC-01 /169 W

----- 075444

P R 122246Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1718

INFO AMCONSUL CALI

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

UNCLAS BOGOTA 2132

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD, CO

SUBJ: PRESS COVERAGE ON COUNTERVAILING DUTY - CUT FLOWERS

REF: STATE 45858

1. EL TIEMPO, BOGOTA'S LEADING NEWSPAPER, ON MARCH 12 FRONT-PAGED AP DISPATCH FROM WASHINGTON ON INITIATION OF COUNTERVAILING DUTY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST CUT FLOWERS FROM COLOMBIA. STORY DRAWS ON PRESS RELEASE TRANSMITTED REFTEL AND SAYS US IMPORTED DOLS 18 MILLION (PROBABLY TYPO, SHOULD BE DOLS 8 MILLION) WORTH OF COLOMBIAN FLOWERS LAST YEAR, REPRESENTING 70 PERCENT OF US FLOWER IMPORTS. TREASURY OFFICIAL QUOTED AS SAYING CUSTOMS AGENTS HAVE ALREADY GATHERED PRELIMINARY EVIDENCE INDICATING THAT COLOMBIAN FLOWER INDUSTRY IS SUBSIDIZED, WITH DIRECT QUOTE THAT, "I THINK THAT WE NOW KNOW WHAT THE FACTS ARE." CONGRESSMAN DAN BROTZMAN OF COLORADO ALSO QUOTED AS EXPRESSING BELIEF IN PRINCIPLES OF FREE TRADE BUT COMPLAINING THAT IT IS UNFAIR THAT COLOMBIANS COMPETE WITH AID OF GOC SUBSIDY. ACCORDING TO CONGRESSMAN, ONE FLOWER GROWER HAS ALREADY GONE OUT OF BUSINESS.

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IF COUNTERVAILING DUTY NOT IMPOSED MANY UNSKILLED WORKERS AND

SMALL BUSINESSMEN WILL BE OUT OF WORK, AND ENTIRE US FLOWER INDUSTRY HAS HAD TO REDUCE ITS EXPECTATIONS BECAUSE OF INCREASED FOREIGN COMPETITION. ARTICLE ENDS WITH STATEMENT US HAS IMPOSED COUNTERVAILING DUTIES 10 TIMES SINCE 1964.

2. ONLY PREVIOUS PRESS PLAY WAS SHORT, FACTUAL UPI DISPATCH FRONTPAGED MARCH 10 BY ANOTHER BOGOTA DAILY AND ONE MEDELLIN PAPER. WE EXPECT CONSIDERABLY MORE PRESS ATTENTION NOW THAT STORY HAS BROKEN. IN EFFORT TO KEEP FACTS STRAIGHT, USIS DIS-TRIBUTING TREASURY PRESS RELEASE LOCALLY.
WHITE

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: IMPORTS, PRESS COMMENTS, COUNTERVAILING DUTIES, PLANTS (FLORA), PRESS RELEASES
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BOGOTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Office: ACTION EB
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30 JUN 2005

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